

# MINUTES, ARIVACA FIRE DISTRICT

August 4, 2014

The Arivaca Fire District governing Board met Monday, August 4, 2014 for an emergency special meeting at the Arivaca Fire Station, 16091 West Universal Ranch Road, Arivaca, Arizona.

1. CALL TO ORDER  
Omar Rood called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM
2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS  
Present: Omar Rood  
Kathleen Wishnick  
Gene Gibson  
Terry Tompkins  
Mark Dresang
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
All present joined in.
4. CALL TO PUBLIC
5. BUSINESS

Omar commented the reasons for calling an Emergency Meeting. He stated that Paramedic Rebecca was having difficulty filling shifts. He commented that Chief was in California with his permission however it was based on the fact that all shifts would be filled and Chief promised they would be. However Chief delegated to Rebecca to fill the shifts. Omar stated it was a serious situation and he had sent out an email to the Chief. So far Omar has not heard anything back from Chief from email or phone.

Omar commented this was a serious problem and how he was misled by the Chief. So Omar took matters in his own hands and contacted Chris Anthis to help us. He stated Chris agreed to help us out.

Kathleen commented that other people who had left that might be willing to come back if the situation was different.

Omar commented that there was no action that we could take against the Chief.

Mark asked why he was in California. Omar commented that he was on a fire. Kathleen commented that he was on a fire but not for Arivaca Fire. Rebecca commented that he was on a fire for BLM. Omar commented that when Chief called him it was going to be Chief and his brother. He did not tell Omar that he was taking the 2 EMT's.

Mark asked Rebecca what her impression was of him leaving. Rebecca commented that

Chief was in Yarnell teaching a class. She stated Chief wanted to take 2 interns but because of EMT class requirements they could not go. She was under the impression it was just going to be Chief and his brother but then a 3<sup>rd</sup> seat opened up and then a 4<sup>th</sup> seat opened up. It was a great experience for them. She told Chief she would take care of scheduling and teaching EMT class. She has sent out emails and called everyone and as of today there were not 2 personnel for the next 2 weeks except for Friday.

Mark was wondering if Chief left her in a lurch. Rebecca commented at first no but then he stopped communicating. He is not calling us, not returning emails and there are daily operations that Chief needs to do.

Mark commented that usually he communicated. Patti commented that even when he went overseas he stayed in communication.

Kathleen asked who was paying; Omar stated he would front the payroll. Chris Anthis stated under our contract he is being paid and then we will get reimbursed.

Omar commented the profession is low paid. They come on board hoping to get Wildland fires. Omar commented his understanding was it was a hand crew assignment. He stated it was not explained that Chief was taking 2 EMT's.

Mark commented that the incentive would be to go on a Wildland fire to make some money. So they needed to take advantage of this.

Kathleen asked what the goal of this meeting was.

Omar stated he had called Chris to come help us. Chris had resigned as Battalion Chief and needed 30 days off. Omar stated he asked Chief to come to the meeting to discuss helping us out. Another reason for this meeting was to get authority from the board to pay the intern, who is an EMR, a stipend. Rebecca commented that she would like Chris to get the EMT stipend instead of the 15.00 stipend.

Terry made a motion to authorize paying Chris an EMT rate when he comes down to fill an EMR rate and Kathleen seconded. Mark asked for clarification. Rebecca commented that an EMR gets \$15.00 versus \$75.00 for an EMT.

Omar called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Omar asked if anything else was needed to be done to help her. Rebecca commented that she needed supplies ordered.

Terry made a motion to authorize Rebecca to make decisions with regard to ordering necessary supplies. Kathleen seconded. Omar called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Omar commented that one of the really upsetting things that occurred this morning was the fact that Rebecca was hesitant to call him. That is really unacceptable in a well-run organization. Kathleen asked why. Omar commented the board was to micro manage. The board hires and fires a chief. Rebecca was here and Rebecca was in charge and she should have been comfortable calling him.

Terry commented that if Chief had responded to Rebecca's calls and emails or Omar's

emails then this meeting would not be taking place.

Renn commented that Elephant Head is willing to help out. He commented that they were bypassed on the structure fire and they could have been here in about 25 minutes but they were not called. Richard of Elephant Head commented that most were wildland certified and they did not have any EMT's. Kathleen asked if we had a mutual aid agreement with Elephant Head and they responded yes.

Kathleen asked Chris A. to find out what was going on with our engine. Chris said he would.

Kathleen asked if the board was going to deal with Chief concerns in executive session. Patti commented they could not because Chief was not given 24 hour notice.

Kathleen made a motion to give Chief an order via email, text or phone, to return to the district immediately as he is needed here. Gene seconded.

Chris A. commented that if we bring him back it would be a district cost to bring them back. Kathleen commented we were in limbo at this time. Mark commented that he is going to take a different position because of Chief's past record, Chief has been a good ne in many regards, but he does not think we should call him back. Terry stated he would have to agree with Mark. Kathleen commented that it was not a board decision to let Chief go. Kathleen commented that it was a unilateral decision and not an entire board decision. Terry commented that if Chief had come to the board and stated he and his brother wanted to go to California for a fire then Terry would have agreed. Kathleen commented that due to cash flow problems it should have been a board decision. She stated that part of the problem is the board and part is the Chief. Gene commented that he did not think Kathleen was alone.

Omar called for a vote on the motion to recall Chief from California. Motion did not carry, 1 for and 4 against.

As per A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) the board voted to adjourn into executive session to discuss employee matters. Terry made the motion and Mark seconded. Omar called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0.

The board returned from Executive session and Omar commented that the reason for the executive session was to ask Chris A. to temporarily withdraw his request for a constructive discharge and he would stop up until Chief returns.

Another item brought up in executive session was there was a need to contact an attorney,

Gene made a motion for Kathleen to contact Chief De Wolfe to find out the name and establish a contact with legal counsel and find out their time of availability. Terry seconded. Patti stated we would have to do a resolution. Kathleen asked if there were dates that was better for others to schedule a consultation with the attorney. Kathleen stated she would do that tomorrow. Omar called for a vote. Motion carried 4-0 with Mark abstaining

## 6.. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Renn commented that Elephant Head was here to help us. Just contact them and they are here for the Arivaca Fire District.

Kathleen thanked everyone for their service.

Omar asked for a motion to return to business. Terry made the motion and Gene seconded.

Omar asked for a motion to reinstate Chris A. at his current pay rate. Terry made the motion and Gene seconded. Mark asked how long would this be in effect and was it in the budget. Gene commented yes it was in the budget and it would be in effect until Chief came back. Kathleen commented about the new regulation regarding advising the budget. Motion carried 5-0.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Terry made a motion to adjourn and Gene seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Omar adjourned the meeting at 8:53 PM

Approved August 21, 2014

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Omar Rood, Chairperson

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Terry Tompkins, Clerk